

## King County Behavioral Health Organization (KCBHO) Fact Sheet

Washington State is changing how it purchases publicly funded behavioral health services (mental health and substance use disorder). You may receive a letter from the State of Washington describing these changes. You may also be asked to sign some forms related to this change. This fact sheet is to provide you with information about the changes to services and how they might affect you and your current treatment.

### **What is changing?**

Beginning April 1, 2016, local entities called Behavioral Health Organizations (BHOs) will be responsible for managing all behavioral health services (mental health and substance use disorder) in their region.

### **What is a BHO?**

A BHO is a local entity that will be responsible for providing substance use disorder treatment and mental health services to Medicaid enrollees who need services. BHOs will make sure there are enough providers in the region so people can get services when they need them. BHOs will also pay for services for Medicaid enrollees who need it. In King County, the King County Behavioral Health and Recovery Division will be the BHO.

### **How will this change affect my services?**

The transition will change the way the state provides and pays for the services you are currently receiving. You will still be able to receive mental health and substance use services at the provider of your choice within the KCBHO network. You will still be able to receive behavioral health services based on your personal needs. Your provider will explain what your services will be after April 1<sup>st</sup> and you should ask your provider to explain anything you do not understand about your future services.

### **Why am I being asked to sign new forms?**

Some information about you and your current service needs must be shared with the KCBHO so your services can continue and your provider can get paid. Your provider will ask you to sign new "Release of Information" forms that give the agency permission to share certain information about you. The information shared will only be used to authorize and provide services that you need. Without sharing some information, your provider may not be able to continue to provide services. Please discuss any questions you have about the release of information forms with your current provider.

### **Who should I talk with if I have questions?**

- If you are currently in mental health or substance use services, please talk with your provider
- Contact King County BHO Client Services at 1-800-790-8049; TDD: 206-205-0569
- Call the King County Ombuds office at 206-477-0630